

Mississippi State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

Radiosonde S1H3-S (Weather instrumentation with balloon)

Windsonde Receiver (Communication between computer and weather instruments)

Windsonde Software (Data reading software unique to these weather instruments)

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

These sondes are very small, portable, and lightweight allowing them to be launched quickly and with a small balloon and little helium. These will be used as part of the instrumentation for the VORTEX-SE field project headed by the National Severe Storms Lab. These sondes allow for frequent sampling of the atmosphere. There are no other sondes currently being manufactured that have the meteorological accuracy needed and the small package for quick and inexpensive sampling of the atmosphere.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

Sparv Embedded AB

This is the only company making a sonde with the accuracy needed for the project.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

Software \$2461.00

Communication Receiver 595.00

Sondes \$152.00 per sonde (82 needed for project)

Not only are these sondes small and accurate, they are approximately \$31.00 cheaper per sonde than other considerably larger sondes. An increase in size means that more expensive weather balloons and more helium would be needed increasing the cost by an additional \$36.00

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

As a meteorology department we are well aware of the technologies available and many were considered for this grant project. However, none are this small (in terms of size), lightweight, or can be deployed as rapidly with necessary accuracy. We have spoken with National Weather Service individuals who launch sondes daily to determine if any other sondes would meet our requirements, we have also scoured the internet for other possible sondes.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Don Buffum, CPPO  
Director of Procurement & Contracts  
[dbuffum@procurement.msstate.edu](mailto:dbuffum@procurement.msstate.edu)  
**Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"**

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.